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Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 IO-11 /080 W
---------- 014475
P R 260930Z FEB 76
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5200
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCPAC FOR PLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0325

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CH US
SUBJECT: PRC VISIT OF FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON

REF: (A) PEKING 0304, (B) PEKING JAQU

SUMMARY: MR. AND MRS. NIXON AND THEIR ENTOURAGE DEPARTED PEKING MORNING OF FEBRUARY 26 FOR VISIT TO KWEILIN AND CANTON BEFORE RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES. TREATMENT OF THEM BY PRC WAS CORDIAL THROUGHOUT AND FOR THE MOST PART ON A SCALE NORMALLY RESERVED FOR VISITING CHIEFS OF STATE. MADAME MAO WENT TO UNUSUAL LENGTHS TO PLAY THE HOSTESS ROLE. DURING THE PUBLIC SPEECHES, ACTING PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG EMPHASIZED THE IMPROVEMENT OF SINO-U.S. RELATIONS IN ACCORD WITH THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AIRPORT DEPARTURE WAS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO ARRIVAL WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS LED BY ACTING PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG, NPC STANDING

COMMITTEE MEMBER YAO LIEN-WEI, FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEKING MASSES. USLO ACTING CHIEF AND ECON-
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NOMIC COUNSELOR WERE ALSO ON HAND.

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DURING PEKING PORTION OF THEIR VISIT, MR. NIXON HELD EIGHT HOURS OF FORMAL CONVERSATIONS IN THREE SESSIONS WITH ACTING PREMIER HUA AND HAD A FOURTH SESSION IN THE EVENING AFTER THE FAREWELL BANQUET; WITH CHOU EN-LAI'S WIDOW ON FEBRUARY 22 AND CHAIRMAN MAO ON FEBRUARY 23; VISITED THE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM, THE CHINESE HISTORY MUSEUM, AND TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY; AND ATTENDED WELCOMING BANQUET, RECIPROCAL BANQUET, AND CULTURAL EVENING.

3. AT THE FEBRUARY 25 RETURN BANQUET, HUA USED THE OCCASION TO EMPHASIZE AGAIN THE PRC'S DESIRE TO "FURTHER THE IMPROVEMENT OF SINO-U.S. RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE," BUT DROPPED THE QUALIFYING NEED FOR "EARNEST IMPLEMENTATION" OF THE COMMUNIQUE USED AT THE WELCOMING BANQUET. IN ADDITION TO THIS CHANGE ON THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, HUA TOOK A SOMEWHAT MORE SENSITIVE LINE ON MR. NIXON'S CURRENT POS-ITION BY NOTING HE "NO LONGER HOLDS ANY PUBLIC OFFICE". HE ALSO ADDED A TOAST TO THE HEALTH OF PRESIDENT FORD.

4. CHIANG CHING CONTINUED TO INVOLVE HERSELF IN THE VISIT TO AN UNUSUAL DEGREE FOLLOWING THE FEBRUARY 23 CULTURAL EVENT (REF B). ACCORDING TO MR. NIXON'S AIDE, MADAME CHIANG WAS "ALL OVER" THE NIXONS

FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS OF THEIR PEKING VISIT. SHE SENT A SPECIAL LUNCH TO THE NIXON PARTY AND PRESSED OTHER COURTESIES, INCLUDING A SNACK OF PASTRIES. CHIANG'S INSISTENCE ON THESE INTRUSIONS INTO THE PLANNED PROGRAM HAD, ACCORDING TO THE AIDE, KEPT PROTOCOL CHIEF CHU CHUAN-HSIEN AND OTHER PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROG-RAM OBVIOUSLY "SCARED TO DEATH". THESE COURTESIES MAY HAVE BEEN INNOCENT, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE MADAME CHIANG HOPED TO MAKE AMENDS FOR PUTTING THE NIXONS IN AN AWKWARD POSITION WITH HER FEBRUARY 23 ENTHUSIASM FOR THE TAIWAN SONG.
THAYER

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